

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 32 and 33 are pending in the application, with 32 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-31 and 34 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new claims are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Entry of these amendments after a Final Rejection is proper for the following reasons. First, no new matter is embraced by these amendments. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 34 would be allowable if written in independent format to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendment set forth above does this. Claim 32 has been rewritten to incorporate the patentable subject matter of claim 34. Furthermore, claim 33 depends from and adds further features to independent claim 32 and is thus patentable for at least the same reason as claim 32. Thus, claims 32 and 33 should now be in condition for allowance. Entry of these amendments and allowance of these claims will not require any further searching or undue consideration or burden on the Examiner.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

Date: July 11, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600